

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC 102 §(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (USP 6,489,168 B1).

Wang fails to disclose causing the display device to display the vessels described in the selected protocol line on the screen. However, in the instant application, as shown by way of an example in Figure 1, the display device 4 indeed displays the vessels 41 described in the selected protocol line on the screen 42.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 6-7 are amended to incorporate these features. By so amending, independent claims 1 and 6-7 are believed to be placed in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102 §(b) as being anticipated by Babson et al. (USP 5,316,726).

Independent claims 1 and 6, as newly amended, have positively recited “a selection means for selecting one or more vessels among the vessels displayed on a screen of the display device, wherein said display device displays protocols stored in a storage means causing the display device to display the vessels described in selected protocol line on the screen.”

These features are shown by way of an example in Figure 1 wherein there is indeed a selection means 10 for selecting one or more vessels 22 among the vessels displayed on a screen 41 of the display device 4, wherein said display device 4 displays protocols stored in a storage

means causing the display device 4 to display the vessels described in selected protocol line on the screen 41.

In contradistinction, in Babson, the feature of a selection means for selecting one or more vessels among the vessels to be displayed on a screen of the display device does not exist. For example, in column 11 lines 34 to 41, it is stated that “the number and type of immunoassays to be performed on any one sample depends on the number and type of assay tubes selected by the technician. For example, sample #29 only has two tests being performed (e.g., T4 and hCG) while sample #260 has three tests being performed (e.g., T-U, TSH, and hCG). Third, the immunoassays need not be performed one right after another.” This is specifically referring to the fact that the operator can select the number and type of immunoassays to be performed. This is not the same as selecting one or more vessels among the vessels to be displayed on a screen of the display device. Through the written specification of Babson, the word select or a variation of this word has been used numerous times. However, each time, it is used in the context of selected test, elements or biomaterials to be used, not selecting vessels to be displayed. Therefore, the Office indicated selection means 44 and 71 are not for selecting vessels to be displayed.

Given that Babson fails to disclosed or teach a selection means for selecting one or more vessels among the vessels displayed on a screen of the display device, naturally, there is also no disclosure or teaching of said display device displays protocols stored in a storage means causing the display device to display the vessels described in selected protocol line on the screen

CONCLUSION

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Lau", is written over the printed name.

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